

February 25, 2013

Item 1, Res. 13-38

The Honorable Council Member Manahan, Chair
Parks Committee
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RECEIVED
FEB 25 10 24 AM '13
CITY CLERK
HONOLULU, HAWAII

Mr. Manahan,

I have known Toni Robinson ever since she started working for the Department of Parks and Recreation. Over the years, we have worked together in a professional capacity as well as in the Hawaii Recreation and Park Association, the recreation professional organization.

I find that Toni is very professional in her work. She is very intelligent, follows through on her assignments, trustworthy, yet sensitive to employees concerns. She has an open mind and listens intently to what the opinions of her staff are. She is also very progressive in her thinking and is receptive to new ideas and their implementation. She loves to start new programs and not afraid to be the first to try it.

She is the first person that has started in the field of Recreation as a Recreation Director and has moved up the ranks retiring as the Assistant Parks and Maintenance Recreation Services Administrator. Because she has worked closely with both the recreation and maintenance parts of the Department, Toni has an intimate knowledge of almost every aspect of the inner workings of the Department -- from filling out forms, work schedules, union matters, program cycles, staffing problems, how the budget process works, working with Council, and so forth.

Outside of her professional work, she is a staunch supporter and participant in the Hawaii Recreation and Park Association (now called the Hawaii Recreation and Park Society since January 2012), which is a state organization for parks and recreation professionals. This organization is an affiliate of the National Recreation and Park Association based in Ashburn, Virginia near Washington, DC.

In her early years of employment, she studied and passed a very difficult certification exam in parks and recreation fields - budget, staffing, etc. to earn her the Certified Leisure Professional status. She has attended many National, Regional, and State Conferences.

But her greatest contribution outside of her professional job is to be a constant supporter, and active participant in the Hawaii Recreation and Park Association. Over the many years she was with DPR, she also volunteered countless hours on various HRPAC committees -- either chairing or as a committee member -- to promote recreation in the department and the community. She always believed that getting certified or attending regional and national conferences was a way to increase one's knowledge of current recreation practices and to network with professionals around the country. On a local level, she always attends meetings, activities, etc., and is one you can always count on if you needed help.

She served as President of the Association and has been on the Board in some capacity throughout her working career.

I believe Toni will be great asset to the Department and the City.

Arthur Wong, CPRP, retired Recreation Specialist since December 30, 2011 with 39 and half years of service with the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Richard M. Wong, 2/25/13

MISC. COM. 457

PARKS